

Ski team opens season

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Special to the BI

The Wyoming Nordic ski team kicked off its season with its first tournament in Breckenridge, Colo. last weekend. The team will return to Laramie to practice before its next tournament, but there is one problem: there has not been a lot of snow in Laramie this season.

Team coach, Christi Boggs, said the lack of snow has been the team's biggest challenge so far. While the team can practice its classic skiing without well-groomed snow, Boggs said the team needs more snow to practice its skate skiing. Despite the lack of snow, Boggs said the team has been training since the second week of school by biking and running outdoors.

The tournament in Breckenridge was this year's first event for the young core of skiers. Boggs said the men's team lost three of its top skiers to graduation, and envisions this year to be a rebuilding year for the defend-

ing Division II national champions.

The women's team on the other hand, had a relatively young core of skiers last season when it came in second place at nationals last year. With the exception of losing one senior graduation, the women's team returns its entire roster from last year.

The Wyoming Nordic ski team will be competing in one more tournament on Dec. 16 in Tabernash, Colo. before its first official race of the season on Jan. 13 and Jan. 14 in Soldier Hollow, Utah.

After that, the team will compete in a tournament every weekend until the national championships from March 5-11.

The Nordic ski team has an open roster. Students and faculty members can join the team. However, to compete in nationals, the skier must meet certain qualifications.

Anyone interested in joining the Wyoming Nordic ski team can visit the team's Web site at www.uwyo.edu/ski or can contact the team at uwski@yahoo.com.